

L.T. -- ~~Monday~~ ^{Thursday}, DECEMBER 1, 1966

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

DeGaulle tonight called for a new European unification plan. One -- said he -- in which Western and Communist countries would pool their strength; to impose peace throughout the world -- and to speed development of Africa, Asia and Latin America. This in connection with the ceremonies honoring Soviet Premier Kosygin.

PARIS

In Paris -- Charles DeGaulle earlier has pulled out all the stops -- in welcoming visiting Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin.

Though Kosygin is only Number Two in the Kremlin -- DeGaulle himself and all his Cabinet officers were waiting at the airport; providing Kosygin with the full honors -- normally reserved for a head of state; including a One-Hundred-and-One gun salute -- that took Twenty minutes.

DeGaulle hailing the visit -- as "a brilliant confirmation of the cooperation between our two peoples." "The French people" -- he added -- "have forgotten nothing of the magnificent effort of the Russian Armies and the Russian people -- which did so much to assure a common victory over our enemy."

In response -- Kosygin saying that France and Russia are on "common" paths -- toward peace and friendship in Europe and the world.

MEDITERRANEAN

British Prime Minister Harold Wilson and rebel Premier Ian Smith of Rhodesia -- en route tonight to a secret rendezvous in the Mediterranean. Their first face-to-face meeting -- since Rhodesia announced its unilateral declaration of independence ^a ~~12~~ year ago last month. The outlook for a peaceful settlement of the Rhodesian crisis seems brighter than it has before.

Prior to leaving London -- Wilson promising Parliament there would be no "sell-out" to the breakaway colony. He added, however, that he "would not have contemplated" the meeting -- unless, said he, "unless I had enough reason -- to think we were within hailing distance of a possible solution."

Later: P.M. Wilson has arrived at Gibraltar. They may meet Friday on a cruiser.

VIET NAM

In Viet Nam -- something of a minor miracle today. Twenty-Four survivors of a "greenberet" special forces camp -- overrun by the Viet Cong last March -- making their way to freedom in the South; following ~~their~~ ^{their SURPRISE} release from a prison camp -- ^{Somewhere} in the Communist North.

The Twenty-Four who came back -- all Vietnamese. All of them suffering from malnutrition, disease or ~~a~~ unhealed wounds made worse by their long and painful trek through the jungles of Viet Nam. All of them among a group of Fifty-Nine prisoners -- who were set free at the same time.

But why they were let loose -- and what happened to the other Thirty-Five -- nobody seems to know. Or at least -- they ^{are} not talking.

LBJ RANCH

~~Here at home~~ -- President Johnson ^{was} reported busy today at the LBJ Ranch -- studying the nation's economic picture for next year. A picture said to include the possibility -- that he will present Congress with a whopping One Hundred-and-Forty Billion-dollar budget, come January.

Meanwhile, back in Washington -- a group of leading businessmen and educators ^{are} calling for ^a temporary across-the-board tax increase, ~~badly~~ needed -- they say -- to head off the threat of "persistent inflation."

MIDDLE EAST

Charge and counter-charge -- Arab against Arab today -- in that continuing crisis in the Middle East.

Radio Damascus in Syria -- first to the attack. Accusing Jordan's Arab Legion of opening fire on anti-government refugees -- after they had fled across the Jordanian border into Syria. Further accusing Jordan's King Hussein -- of "seeking to engage Syria in a side battle;" instead of concentrating on their common enemy -- the Jewish state of Israel.

Radio Amman in Jordan -- quickly replying that the refugees were, in reality, saboteurs, caught red-handed by Arab Legionnaires // in an attempt to destroy public buildings, bridges and military communications lines -- along the Jordanian and Syrian frontier.

A later throne speech by King Hussein -- condemning the extremist Palestine Liberation Organization. Nevertheless, calling once more for "unified Arab action" -- to deal with Israel.

BOSTON

The annual meeting of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics -- in session this week at Boston. With today's feature presentation: A detailed plan -- for manned flight to Mars in Nineteen-Eighty-Five; as conceived by Two General Electric scientists -- working under a grant from the government.

The "mother ship" for the planned voyage -- pictured as a ~~Six-Hundred-foot~~ nuclear-powered space vessel; bearing a striking resemblance -- we're told -- to a Jules Verne submarine.

Be that as it may -- the space ship would be assembled in orbit ~~from~~ from parts shot up from earth. Once assembled -- its engines activated -- the vessel expected to reach Mars orbit in about ~~Two Hundred~~ days.

En route -- the ship supposedly spinning like a propeller -- to create its own gravity. And once it gets there -- an auxiliary "descent craft" to permit an actual landing; followed by ~~Forty~~ forty days of exploration ~~of~~ of the planet's surface. Total estimated cost --about Twenty Billion.

Next question: Is this trip -- really necessary? Yes -- say the men who planned it. (If for no other reason -- than "scientific curiosity." In other words -- because it's there.)

SPACE FOLLOW BOSTON

A later speaker at the same meeting -- Dr. Eugene B. Konecci; liaison man between the White House -- and the Federal space agency, ~~urging~~ urging American scientists to join together -- now -- in promoting development of a space rescue program.

Dr. Konecci asserting that neither the United Statesⁿ or Russia -- as far as we know -- has yet lost a man in space.

(Adding, however, that "someday -- maybe in the not-too-distant future -- we and/or the Soviets will suffer a manned space catastrophe.")

"The longer we delay in getting a space rescue system" -- said he -- the greater the danger; ("to say nothing of possible public, Congressional and international reaction" -- if an astronaut were "stranded alive" ~~for an extended period of time.~~ for an extended period of time.)

BONN

At Bonn -- Christian Democratic party leader Kurt-George Kiesinger ^{W. Ad.} ₋₇ officially installed today as the new chancellor of West Germany. West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt -- chairman of the Social Democrats -- similarly taking ~~km~~ his place as vice chancellor and foreign minister -- in the new "grand coalition" government.

As for that earlier furore about Kiesinger's Nazi past -- it's now apparently all but forgotten. The Soviet News Agency Tass, for one -- ignoring the matter completely. (Kiesinger called merely -- "a leading member of a bourgeois party -- representing the interests of the big industrial and financial monopolies." So says Tass.)

TOKYO FOLLOW BONN

Less publicized but perhaps equally important to American interests -- another political showdown today on the opposite ^{side} of the globe. Japan's ruling Liberal Democrats meeting in party caucus -- to choose a new premier for the next Two years. With dissident elements committed to an all-out fight -- to dump Premier Eisaku Sato, because of a series of government scandals -- also mounting consumer prices.

In the end -- a close call; but Sato -- who is generally considered pro-American -- ~~is~~ squeaking through with a slim majority, ^{Warren, that} immediately indicating he will probably fire all but one -- or possibly ~~two~~ -- of his present ~~Eighteen~~-man Cabinet.

ATHENS

From Athens, Texas -- the story today of Mrs. Lillie Lester; a woman deprived of schooling in her youth -- who was sitting on her front porch last June; when a neighbor youngster walked by -- carrying some books.

"Where you going" -- said Mrs. Lester. "I'm going to school" -- said the boy -- "to learn to read and write." "Wait for me" -- said Mrs. Lester -- "I'm going, too." And she did -- continuing to go to school ever since -- learning to read and write with a clear hand.

Result -- Mrs. Lester will receive a special award -- in school ceremonies tomorrow. At ^{age One} ~~A~~ Hundred-and-Four -- the oldest student currently attending public education classes -- in the whole United States.